What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for adjusting printhead-to-media spacing in a printer having a frame and a shiftable printhead-carrying carriage mounted on the frame for lateral movement relative to the frame, the apparatus comprising

a first stationary mechanical contact actuator anchored to the frame and disposed beyond one end of a print-job range, and

a first movable mechanical contact actuator movable with the carriage, positioned toward that side of the carriage which generally faces the first stationary actuator, and engageable with the first stationary actuator during movement of the carriage beyond the one end of the print-job range to cause a positional adjustment of the carriage which effects a change in printhead-to-media spacing.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 which further includes a rotatable component, and wherein said first stationary actuator includes a projection mounted on an elongate rail which at least partially supports the carriage during lateral movement, and the first movable actuator takes the form of a rotation-implementing first cam drivingly joined to the rotatable component, and engageable with the projection during movement of the carriage beyond the one end of the print-job range to cause rotation of the rotatable component.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the rotatable component carries a rotatable bearing structure which rotates between positions of engagement and non-engagement with the rail during rotation of the rotatable component, and wherein the position of engagement produces one printhead-to-media spacing, and the position of non-engagement produces another printhead-to-media spacing.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the rotatable component takes the form of an elongate shaft mounted on the carriage for a rotation about a long axis of the shaft, and wherein the shaft carries rotatable bearing structure that includes an elongate finger which extends radially relative to the shaft such that the finger, with rotation of the shaft, selectively engages and disengages the rail to effect a change in printhead-to-media spacing.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the first cam includes an axially outwardly facing, at least partially helical, cam surface that is contactable with the projection.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the carriage is adjustable via a rocking motion to establish different printhead-to-medium spacings, the first stationary actuator includes a plate structure joined to the frame, and the first movable actuator includes a spring-biased push-button and a rotary ratchet wheel rotatably mounted on the carriage, and an elongate movable finger drivingly associated with the wheel, and collectively therewith exhibiting bi-stable behavior in relation to successive engagements occurring between the push-button and the plate structure, such bi-stable behavior creating alternating rocking of the carriage to establish different selected printhead-to-media spacings.

7. Apparatus for adjusting to different selectable values the printhead-to-media spacing in a printer having a frame and a reversibly, laterally shiftable printhead-carrying carriage which is mounted on the frame both for adjustment to establish different such spacing values, and for lateral movement relative to the frame within (a) an elongate, defined, lateral print-job range during a printing operation, and (b) laterally and selectively beyond that range under other circumstances, said apparatus comprising

a first immovable mechanical contact actuator anchored to the frame and disposed beyond one end of the print-job range, and

a first movable mechanical contact actuator carried on and movable with the carriage, positioned toward that side of the carriage which generally faces the first immovable actuator, and engageable with the first immovable actuator during movement of the carriage beyond the one end of the print-job range to cause a positional adjustment of the carriage which effects a change in printhead-to-media spacing from one value to another.